

JAPAN, Kobe. Albert J. Perkins, Nov. 21. Sends samples of Japanese papers, some of them waterproofed with Aleurites cordata and with persimmon juice. This waterproofed paper is used to protect pears, apples, peaches, etc., from insects. Also sends samples of oiled papers used for making umbrellas. Saw Edgeworthia papyrifera growing in mountains on rather poor soil but with plenty of moisture. Sends some samples of naked barleys presented by Dr. Nakamura, Director Experiment Station, Nara. This Experiment Station makes a specialty of rice and other grains. They also have an orchard of navel oranges.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, Manila. Wm. S. Lyon. Mr. Lyon has just returned from the Sarangani Islands, the southernmost of the Philippine group, where no Spaniard seems ever to have been. He discovered there a new fruit with the native name 'Balun', which he has not yet been able to identify. It resembles in form and color a Duchesse d'Angouleme pear. The outer layer of flesh is snow white and slightly granular in texture and not dissimilar in character and taste to the same pear. From thence in to the seed the flesh is melting, vinous and more than juicy. Owing to the thick, edible but slightly inferior outer pulp and the large amount of tow-covered seed the available good pulp is small; that small amount has the flavor of vanilla tempered with just the right subacidity of a very ripe strawberry.

TURKEY-IN-ASIA, Aintab. Mrs. F.A. Shepard, Nov. 16. Sends wild vetches, clovers and oats from the mountain regions 25-30 miles from the Mediterranean 3000-4000 feet above sea-level. Also package of 'Menerigish', a variety of wild terebinth upon which the pistacia is grafted. Offers to collect other mountain tree seeds or wild leguminosae another season if desired.

RECENT VISITORS.

TRIPOLI. Consul Coffin called. Brought 8 small boxes of date samples and 20 cuttings of pomegranates. Will get cuttings of the date varieties in the spring. Will get Tripoli alfalfa seed to be tested in comparison with Arabian alfalfa.